



PATENT APPLICATION

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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In re the Application of: **Examiner: Willaim E. Tapolcai**  
Kazuto KOBAYASHI et al. **Art Unit: 3744**  
Application No.: 10/614,086 **Confirmation No.: 8306**  
Filed: July 8, 2003  
For: EXPANSION VALVE

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

**BOX RCE**  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

**I. INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

Prior to examination on the merits after filing the accompanying Request for Continued Examination filed and in response to the final Office Action dated August 5, 2004, the period for response being extended to December 6, 2004, (December 5, 2004, being a Sunday) by the Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, please amend the above-identified application as set forth below.

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 5, 6 and 10 are amended and claims 11-14 are added.

**II. AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS**

(There are no amendments to the drawings)

**III. AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

(There are no amendments to the specification)